



Natalia Alward <alwardn@graffton-ma.gov>

[Town of Grafton MA] Wyman-Gordon Proposed Warehouse hearing (Sent by Robert Carroll, bob@bob-carroll.com)

1 message

Contact form at Town of Grafton MA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Sun, Oct 3, 2021 at 7:03 PM

Reply-To: bob@bob-carroll.com

To: Planning Department <planningdept@graffton-ma.gov>

Hello Planning Department,

Robert Carroll (bob@bob-carroll.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.graffton-ma.gov/user/14766/contact>) at Town of Grafton MA.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.graffton-ma.gov/user/14766/edit>.

Message:

To the Planning Board,

Please find the attachments that should be uploaded with this form. Most relate to pollution at the proposed site. The Board can reference those items at their leisure.

The most compelling statements are from the 2002 Annual Report. Of note are the statements:

'..substantially all of <<allocated funds>> which has been spent as of March 31, 2002'

'...We expect to incur an additional amount to comply with federal and state environmental requirements in connection with the investigation and remediation of contamination at the North Grafton facility.'

'...The North Grafton site is located in an area where regional groundwater has been impacted with a number of contaminants, including chlorinated solvents.'

'... Wyman Gordon disposed of magnesium thorium alloys, which are low-level radioactive waste, at the North Grafton facility'

"We believe the Company's most significant potential environmental liabilities are associated with the Wyman-Gordon facility in North Grafton, Massachusetts. Pursuant to an agreement between Wyman-Gordon and the U.S. Air Force in connection with Wyman-Gordon's acquisition of the North Grafton facility in 1982, Wyman-Gordon agreed to make expenditures for environmental matters and remediation at that site totaling \$20.8 million, substantially all of which has been spent as of March 31, 2002. These expenditures will not resolve Wyman-Gordon's obligations to federal and state regulatory authorities, which are not party to the agreement. We expect to incur an additional amount to comply with federal and state environmental requirements in connection with the investigation and remediation of contamination at the North Grafton facility. The North Grafton site is located in an area where regional groundwater has been impacted with a number of contaminants, including chlorinated solvents. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("MADEP") also has asked Wyman-Gordon to investigate contamination in a brook and pond near the facility. Pursuant to a license from the Atomic Energy Commission, Wyman Gordon disposed of magnesium thorium alloys, which are low-level radioactive waste, at the North Grafton facility."

W-G admits the pollution is there. Engineering and ground water analysis is imperfect, so is NOT reliable. The site work and excavation will open old wounds. The 'Speculative' development is also suspect. This is a tactic used by Google and Amazon as cited in the press. The traffic and environmental issues are asking for trouble that the citizens of this town don't need. This will be a train wreck.

Regards,

Robert Carroll

72 East Street

There are three attachments to this email:

Attachment #1 included and attached after this page.

Links for Attachments #2 and #3 are below:

https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/79958/000091205702023829/a2082140z10-k.htm#02POR1105_1

<https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/2000JIR2.PDF?Dockey=2000JIR2.PDF>

40-1650



DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT COMMAND
DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NORTHEAST
495 SUMMER STREET
BOSTON, MA. 02210-2184



IN REPLY
REFER TO

DCMDN-EO

APR 16 1993

SUBJECT: Wyman Gordon Company, North Grafton, MA

TO: Mr. Tim Johnson
Mail Stop 5E4
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Division of Low Level Waste Management
Washington, D.C. 20555

1. Reference:

a. NRC letter, dated 22 Feb 93, to Wyman Gordon Company
subject: Dose Assessment of Magnesium-Thorium Alloy
Disposals.

b. Telephone conversation of 14 April 1993 between
Mr. Tim Johnson, (NRC), Tel. (301) 504-3603, and Mr. James
McConnell, Tel. (617) 451-4264, DCMDN Environmental Monitor,
same subject.

2. The Defense Logistics Agency performs contract adminis-
tration services for procuring activities who purchase
defense items from the Wyman Gordon Company. This function
requires that three Quality Assurance Representatives be
duty stationed at the company plant in North Grafton, MA.
One of the Quality Assurance Representatives has expressed
concern for his health because of the burial of magnesium-
thorium alloy at the plant. Please provide information on
possible health risk to our employees from the magnesium-
thorium buried at Wyman Gordon Company.

3. Enclosed are copies of various newspaper articles on
nitric acid spill and other environmental problems at
the Wyman Gordon Company.

4. This office requests that a copy of future NRC
correspondence to the Wyman Gordon Company regarding the
buried magnesium-thorium be sent to this office for
information.

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PDR ADDCK 04001650
C PDR



FEDERAL QUALITY
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NH01

DCMDN-EO

PAGE 2

SUBJECT: Wyman Cordon, North Grafton, MA

5. Mr. James McConnell is the point of contact if additional information is required.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encls

for *Stewart T. Boggs*
H. R. HUKE III
LTC(P), USA

Director
Program & Technical Support

cc:

DCMDN-A (w/o encl)

DCMDN-QF (w/o encl)

DCMDN-K (w/o encl)

DCMAO-GFG (w/o encl)

DCMAO-GFA (w/o encl)

DMACO-GFQ (w/o encl)

JANUARY 1993

Neighborhood 'watchdogs' target W-G

By Richard Nangle
Staff Reporter

GRAFTON — The history of Wyman-Gordon Co. tells a story of business revered locally because of its status as a major employer and taxpayer.

But after decades without any public controversy, accidents over the last several years have cast a shadow on the institutional aura surrounding the company, which manufactures metal forgings for the aerospace industry.

An acid spill two weeks ago that may have endangered several private drinking-water wells nearby is the latest example. But it may be the straw that broke the camel's back.

More people have taken to wondering whether to categorize Wyman-Gordon as good neighbor or bottom-line business with cavalier attitude toward community health and safety.

COMMITTEE

Bonnie Valade of nearby Faulkner Road is organizing a committee of neighbors and townspeople that she hopes will act as a watchdog over Wyman-Gordon.

Their chief concern is the quality of their drinking water in the wake of the nitric acid spill that occurred when a 5,000-gallon storage tank ruptured Jan. 5, spilling 2,500 gallons of the acid.

But they are also concerned with the quality of Flint Pond, which abuts about a dozen homeowners' backyards.

The acid spill washed into drainage pipes that empty into Bonney Brook and lead to the Flint Pond section of Lake Quinsigamond.

"We've known they're there and we've heard of the different incidents. But I don't think we've ever really gotten scared. Now we've

gotten scared," Valade said.

The acid spill came a little more than two years after the Telegram & Gazette disclosed that about 50,000 pounds of radioactive magnesium-thorium wastes had been buried in 3-foot trenches on Wyman-Gordon's North Grafton site since the late 1950s and early 1960s.

HEALTH OFFICIALS

After the disclosures, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and state public health officials required groundwater testing and concluded that the tests showed the wastes posed no "immediate" threat to the public.

The NRC ordered a cleanup of the dump site by 1995.

Also in 1991, Wyman-Gordon was fined \$200,000 by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration for unrelated violations of health and safety standards.

In 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered the company to build a new wastewater-treatment system with an estimated \$2 million price tag.

Also in 1990, the EPA cited it for violating reporting, notification and emergency planning requirements of the federal Emergency Planning Community Right To Know Act.

In particular, the EPA said the company made late filings of reports listing toxic chemical releases covering 1987 and 1988. The reports were filed "only after an EPA inspector arrived at their door," according to agency officials.

The EPA also chastised Wyman-Gordon for alleged failure to comply with requirements to report accidental "releases" of hazardous chemicals.

In September 1988, neighbors watched as ambulances shuttled in

and out of the North Grafton site after a chemical storage tank there burst into flames.

Fifty-five people were injured, none seriously.

The burning tank contained ammonium bifluoride, a chemical used in the milling process at the plant.

The chemical is a combination of ammonia and hydrofluoric acid that can cause burning of the eyes and skin. Two firefighters complained of minor eye and throat irritation.

In 1987, the company closed a hazardous-waste dump site behind the North Grafton plant that contained a high concentration of toxic metals.

It then obtained a license to store the material, once located in surface impoundments known as lagoons, in on-site drums.

MEETING

Many of the neighbors who vented their anger over the recent acid spill at a meeting with town and company officials last week will be involved in the new committee. Valade said the committee will formally begin to organize after many of its prospective members attend a Board of Selectmen meeting tomorrow night at the Municipal Center.

What's particularly disturbing to many residents, said Valade, is that incidents keep happening at the plant despite a seemingly increased emphasis by state and federal agencies on hazardous-waste issues.

But residents really have nothing to fear, according to F. James Walnista, a spokesman for Wyman-Gordon.

"All of the stories that have been written have indicated that there was no problem," Walnista said

yesterday.

"And there are no lingering aftereffects of the acid spill," he said. "I don't know why the media insists on fomenting this. There isn't anything that's happened that hasn't been explained away."

Walnista's statement, said Valade, shows that company officials "just aren't listening."

"People are talking about this. It's all you hear about," said Wanda Hendrix of Second Street.

Karen Fleming of Faulkner Road, a nurse with a degree in geology, said she is concerned that the ruptured acid tank indicates that Wyman-Gordon does not take quality control seriously.

'WORRIES ME'

"That worries me," she said. "The residents, I think, are at risk. Wyman-Gordon is very secretive about what goes on over there."

Fleming uses one of the five wells that health officials have labeled as contaminated. She has been drinking bottled water, since residents were made aware of the possible contamination, three days after the spill.

"It would ease a lot of people's minds to have public water here," she said.

Some town officials have talked of tying in the neighborhood with the municipal water supply. And questions have been raised over whether the company should pay for the hookup.

Said Walnista, "I don't know what our position is on that."

Valade, however, contends that Wyman-Gordon has an obvious responsibility to pay.

"We're not feeling safe in our homes. That's what it's coming down to," she said.

Burial will be at St. John's Church, Lancaster. Calling the funeral home are 2 to 9 p.m. today. Donations made to St. John's Memorial Fund, St. John's Church, 149 Clinton 01510.

M. Una Letourneau

LEOMINSTER — M. Una Letourneau, 85, of 1103 died yesterday in Leominster hospital after an illness.

Her husband, Henry Letourneau, died in 1987. She leaves a son, Robert Cote of Sturbridge, and two daughters, Rhea Asselin and Nadeau, both of Southbridge. Rita Howe of Athol, niece and daughter of Paul E. and Soj (Robidoux) Cote, and William Lunenburg 25 years before here in 1980.

Mrs. Letourneau was a former woolen mill worker, retiring in 1970. She was a member of the Leominster Senior Citizens Club and the Church of the Retired Women's Club of St. Cecilia's Church.

The funeral will be at M.A. Simard & Son, Home, 14 Walker St., with 10 a.m. in St. Cecilia's Church. Burial will be in the parish cemetery. Calling hours the funeral home are 2 to 9 p.m. tomorrow.

M. Aldrich services

UXBRIDGE — Funeral services for Marion (Hood) Hamilton Aldrich, 87, of Ironstone Street, will be held at the convenience of the family. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Uxbridge Baptist Church, Hartford Avenue. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Prospect Hill Cemetery. There are no calling hours.

offers water line

Town hookup set to solve well woes

By John J. Monahan
Staff Reporter

GRAFTON — Wyman-Gordon Co. officials have decided to pay for a town water line extension that will bring clean drinking water to about two dozen homes where toxic chemicals have contaminated residential wells.

Company spokesman F. James Walzista said the causes and extent of the well contamination in the Creeper Hill and Faulkner Road area are still being monitored and investigated.

"We are going to underwrite a project to bring town water to that area," Walzista said in an interview at the plant. He said the company expects the extension to cost about \$250,000, and details are being worked out with town officials.

LINEACROSS W-G

James Tharpe, plant environmental manager, said the company expects to allow the water line to be run across its property from the water mains on the south side of the plant to the Creeper Hill Road neighborhood on the north side of the property.

He said the only alternative would involve installing a much longer water line all the way around the company's property, which would make the project vastly more expensive.

Residents of about two dozen Creeper Hill Road homes between the north side of the plant and Flint Pond have had cause for concern over possible well contamination from the forcing plant operations over the past decade.

In 1983 and again in 1990, wells in the area were tested for possible contamination from a radioactive waste disposal site on the property, which lies only a few hundred feet from wells serving homes and businesses on Creeper Hill Road.

Those tests found no radioactive contamination in the wells, but the

W-G offers to pay for town water line to area

Continued From Page One

situation has required continued monitoring.

Since a 2,500-gallon nitric acid spill at the plant two months ago, tests have found elevated levels of at least two toxic chemicals in some of the neighborhood wells.

Since then, the company has been providing bottled water to residents there. While nitrate, one contaminant found in the wells, might have been related to the nitric acid spill, company and town officials said the connection was not clear.

More testing in the past two weeks also has turned up elevated levels of tetrachloroethylene in some wells in the neighborhood.

Tharpe said tetrachloroethylene was known to be used at the plant as recently as 1985, and it is one of an array of toxic chemicals known to contaminate groundwater on the plant property.

The company finished closing

and capping two chemical waste percolation-disposal lagoons on the property two years ago and is planning numerous additional cleanups on the sites where hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals were stored, spilled or disposed of in the past, Tharpe said.

Tharpe said company officials have continued to monitor a plume of chemical contamination in groundwater near the closed lagoons, and the contamination has continued shrinking since the lagoon was capped.

Tharpe said the company has identified some 46 sites on its property where toxic contamination cleanups will be completed over the next six years.

Preliminary assessments have been completed on about 12 of the sites, and Tharpe said the company expects to have one-quarter to one-third of the hazardous waste site cleanups on the property completed by the end of 1994.

In the spring, the company will

start construction on a federally required wastewater treatment plant to bring its wastewater discharge into compliance with stricter federal clean water standards.

The new wastewater plant also is being designed to have the capability of treating chemically contaminated groundwater, if needed, as part of the cleanup of the hazardous waste sites, Tharpe said.

Maine man is struck, killed while walking

The Associated Press

FARMINGTON, Maine — Farmington police were investigating a highway accident that claimed the life of a Jay man as he walked along a road.

Authorities identified the victim as 42-year-old David King, who was killed Friday night when he was struck by a pickup truck on the Wilton Road in Farmington.

Nitric acid spills at Grafton plant

By Gerard F. Russell
SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE

GRAFTON — About 400 workers at the Wyman-Gordon Co. plant here were evacuated yesterday morning after a large tank ruptured, spilling an estimated 2,500 gallons of nitric acid.

Three employees and the driver of a Dupont Company tanker truck that was pumping nitric acid into the 5,000-gallon outside tank were treated and released from area hospitals for inhalation of the fumes. Wyman-Gordon, which employs about 1,000 people to make parts for the aerospace industry, was forced to shut down for the rest of the day.

The accident prompted concerns about environmental damage. "At this point, we don't know how much got into the soil or into the stream that runs next to the factory," said Te Leone, spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Protection. The stream, Bonnie Brook, empties into Flint Pond,

which is a source of water for the town, Leone said.

Air, water and soil samples were taken by state and federal environmental officials yesterday. The state will take water samples from the stream in the next few days to determine if there is contamination, officials said.

The above-ground storage tank ruptured at about 9:15 a.m., said Grafton Fire Chief Philip Gauthier. "They heard a pop and the seam of the tank split," he said.

James Tharp, Wyman-Gordon emergency coordinator, said that although the rupture occurred in a horizontal weld of the tank, its cause was not known. The caustic acid is used to clean metal parts, Tharp said.

When firefighters arrived, they misted the tank to minimize the escape of fumes into the air, said Leone. The company's Hazardous Materials Team poured lime on the acid to neutralize it, Tharp said.

The tank was nearly full when it

ruptured, said David W. Tordoff, an EPA coordinator. Some of the spilled acid was in a containment area, but Tordoff said he could not estimate how much was recovered.

Crews from DEP, the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Grafton Fire Department were at the site all day while the remaining 2,500 gallons of nitric acid in the ruptured tank was pumped into another tanker for removal, Leone said.

The company hired Clean Harbors to contain and clean up the spill, Tharp said.

All three shifts at the factory were canceled yesterday and workers sent home from the forging plant.

Grafton Police Chief Russell Messier said the town had been prepared to evacuate a nearby densely populated residential area if the wind shifted; however, only a handful of workers in a few small companies nearby were evacuated, he said.

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3/1/93

SOYBEAN OIL in five wells

2/22/93

W-G initiated tests in Grafton

By Mary Frain
Staff Reporter

GRAFTON — Tests of 20 private wells near the Wyman-Gordon Co. plant have revealed higher than acceptable levels of a cancer-causing chemical in six of the wells, according to a spokesman for the company.

The elevated levels of TCE (trichloroethylene) were discovered in a scan for volatile organic chemicals the company had commissioned on water samples from private wells in the Faulkner Road and Creeper Hill Road area behind the plant, said F. James Walnista, manager of corporate communications.

Wyman-Gordon initiated the tests, in cooperation with the state Department of Environmental Protection and the town of Grafton, after an independent test of a private well last week showed a higher level of the chemical than acceptable for drinking water.

120 MICROGRAMS

The independent test showed 120 micrograms per liter of the chemical, compared with the standard of 5 micrograms per liter the DEP considers acceptable, according to Walnista.

The company tested 25 wells, but five of the tests were declared invalid and will be repeated, Walnista said.

The company's tests indicated that the six wells had levels of the chemical between 5.1 micrograms

per liter and 150 micrograms per liter. PCE was the only volatile organic compound found in higher than acceptable levels, according to Walnista.

Walnista said he did not know the results for individual wells.

DRY CLEANING

Tetrachloroethylene is used as a dry-cleaning solvent and to degrease metal parts in high-technology industries. It has been found to cause cancer in laboratory animals, according to a state Department of Public Health spokesman.

The well owners have been notified of the results, along with the DEP and the chairman of a citizens group, Worried About Contamination Here, Walnista said. Federal and local officials also have been notified, he said.

The source of the chemical has not been determined, Walnista said. The chemical was most recently used by Wyman-Gordon in 1985, he said.

The company has agreed to continue providing bottled water to area residents and continue investigating the potential source of the chemical.

TOWN WATER

The company also has agreed to discuss with the town and the Grafton Water District development of a plan to provide town water to residents of the area, according to Walnista.

Turn to TESTS/Page A11

Continued From Page One

Victor Valade of 15 Faulkner Road said his well was one of those tested. But he was not contacted by the company and assumes the results for his well were normal. Nevertheless, his family will continue using bottled water for drinking and cooking.

Valade said he is unaware of any unusual health problems in the neighborhood. He's lived there since 1981.

He and other area residents have been extremely concerned about health issues, however, since 2,500 gallons of nitric acid spilled onto the ground from a ruptured storage tank on the Wyman-Gordon proper-

ty Jan. 5.

Nearly 400 people were evacuated and 12 people became ill after the accident.

The spill prompted one family to have its well water tested. The results indicated high levels of TCE.

Another resident, Curtis Ewald of Faulkner Road, said he also assumes his well water is clear because he was not contacted by the company.

He remains concerned about the safety of the water, but said residents can't do much about the problem at this point.

The company makes semifabricated metal components for aircraft, trucks, tractors and

Acid spill creates toxic cloud

By Karen Fitzsimmons
Staff Reporter

GRAFTON — A dozen people were injured yesterday when a storage tank ruptured and leaked 2,500 gallons of nitric acid, forming a toxic cloud at the Wyman-Gordon Co. plant on Route 122.

The caustic liquid was being offloaded about 9:15 a.m. at an outdoor chemical storage area from a tanker truck to a 5,000-gallon stationary tank when a weld-on seam halfway up the side of the stationary tank broke.

"The fellow was unloading, he

Related story, Page A4.

heard a 'pop' and the seams split," said Fire Chief Phillip Gauthier.

Company officials said the acid spilled onto the ground, generating fumes that affected some workers in adjacent buildings and the driver of the truck. About 400 workers were evacuated as a water mist was sprayed to reduce fumes.

Police said fumes were detected along Creeper Hill Road.

While acid that remained in the tank was being loaded into another tanker truck yesterday, company officials said much of the spilled acid was washed down drains by rain and the water-dousing. They said the drains flow to Bonney Brook and Effit Pond at the lower end of Lake Quinsigamond. Late yesterday state officials were supervising monitoring programs to track the acid in the waterways and surrounding wetlands.

About 400 first-shift workers were evacuated and sent home, and two other shifts were can-

celed. James Tharp, manager of environmental engineering and the emergency coordinator at Wyman-Gordon, said four employees were taken by ambulance to local hospitals, where they were examined and released.

Police Chief Russell L. Messier said three were taken to The Medical Center of Central Massachusetts — Memorial in Worcester, and one was taken to St. Vincent Hospital, also in Worcester.

Three of the employees examined.

Turn to ACID/Page A4

Acid spills in Grafton

Continued From Page One

mined at a hospital were clerks working in a metal building about 50 feet from the tank. Tharp said the building is not airtight.

Tharp said eight other employees, including the truck driver, were treated on site by a company physician. The names of the employees were not disclosed.

Tharp said the yellowish fumes were sprayed with water from a nearby hydrant.

"There are environmental concerns. We're trying to evaluate that with DEP (state Department of Environmental Protection) and DEM (state Department of Environmental Management) now," Tharp said.

Clean Harbors, an environmental cleanup contractor, was called to the plant to deal with the remaining acid.

"It's a bad situation," said Gauthier. "My main job is to evacuate the people in the community, if the wind shifts. Fortunately, it's raining and keeping the fumes in that general area."

LIMITED EVACUATIONS

He said an initial plan had been to evacuate residents and other businesses within 1,800 feet of the plant, but the fumes were mostly confined to the north side of the plant, and only one business, Site-Work Inc. at 109 Creeper Hill Road, was evacuated.

The afternoon session of kindergarten at the North Grafton School on Waterville Street, about a mile east of the plant, was canceled according to Messier.

He said residents of neighborhoods north of the plant told them they could smell the fumes.

Dr. Gregory Clottone, an emergency room physician at The Medical Center of Central Massachusetts — Memorial, said the term effects of nitric acid inhalation are a burning sensation in the throat and chest, shortness of breath and coughing. He said long-term consequences such as irritation of the trachea can lead to swelling in the throat and lower respiratory tract, including the lungs — a condition known as pulmonary edema.

DELAYED EFFECT

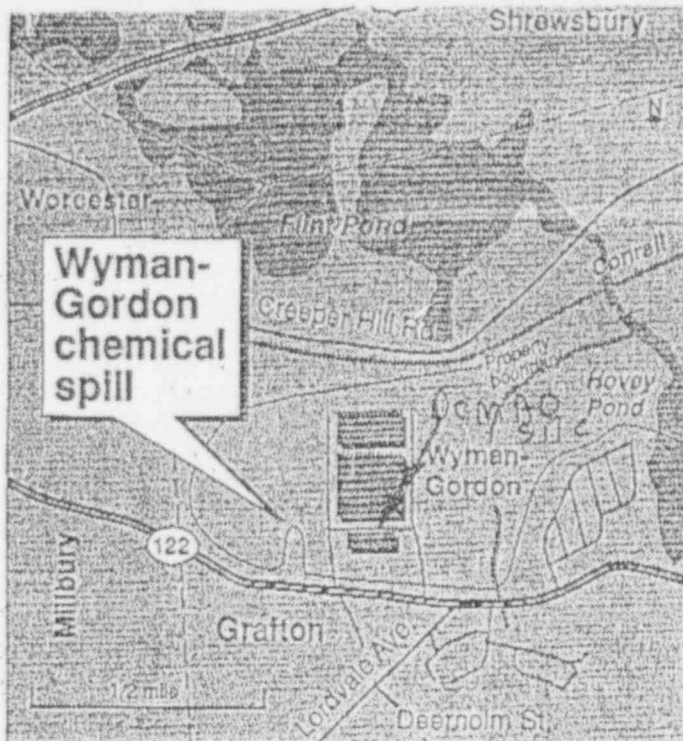
"Our biggest concern is a delayed effect," Clottone said.

He said patients such as those from Wyman-Gordon are observed for four hours and then given instructions on what to do, if symptoms appear within two days.

The Wyman-Gordon Co. manufactures metal forgings primarily in the aerospace industry. Tharp said nitric acid is used for etching and as a cleaning agent.

Employees on the second and third shifts yesterday were to report to work, but the plant will not resume operations this morning.

Tharp said employees were paid only for the hours they worked yesterday.



WORCESTER TELEGRAM GAZETTE 1/7/93

Effect on Flint Pond unknown, state says

By John Monahan
Staff Reporter

GRAFTON — State officials said yesterday it was too early to tell how much of the nitric acid spilled at the Wyman-Gordon Co. plant flowed into a drainage brook to Flint Pond at the lower end of Lake Quinsigamond or what environmental harm it may cause.

When the 2,500-gallon spill occurred yesterday morning, emergency responses, practiced as recently as two months ago during a mock spill at the plant, focused on eliminating a toxic cloud of acid that injured 12 workers and temporarily threatened homes and businesses north of the plant.

Firefighters and plant workers doused the pool of spilled acid with water and water fog to minimize fumes. At one point company workers poured lime on spilled acid to lessen its acidity.

James Tharp, manager of environmental engineering and the emergency coordinator at Wyman-Gordon, said officials believe the acid washed down into drainage pipes that empty into Bonney Brook, which flows to the Flint Pond section of Lake Quinsigamond. He said response crews tried to dam the spill, but it was uncertain how much was kept from running into the drains.

MONITORING WELLS

Grafton Water Department officials yesterday began monitoring their own drinking water wells about one mile away for any sign of the acid. State hazardous response officials said Wyman-Gordon's cleanup contractor, Clean Harbors Inc., would continue monitoring to see how much of the acid ended up in the stream and lake.

Five hours after the spill, state Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Te Leone said only about 1,000 gallons of the acid remaining in the burst tank had been offloaded, and it was expected it would take several more hours to move the remaining acid to a tanker truck.

"At this point we do not know how much acid got into the soil or the stream, Bonney Brook, that leads to Flint Pond," Leone said.

She said DEP wetland and water supply officials at the scene were supervising efforts by Clean Harbors workers to test and monitor the area wetlands and the lake for contamination.

RAPID RESPONSE

When the spill occurred, a rapid coordinated response came from local fire, police and civil defense officials who had trained for just such an acid spill at the plant during a mock drill two months ago. The drill was sponsored by the town's recently organized Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Civil Defense Director Roger Demers said he was at home, two blocks from the plant property, when he heard the police scanner report of the accident. "The drill we had was exactly the same situation we had today for real," Demers said.

Yesterday, immediately after the cloud of acid fumes was reported, while company officials evacuated 400 employees from buildings at the sprawling manufacturing complex, police went to homes and businesses to the north of the plant and alerted people there evacuation might be necessary, if the fumes persisted.

in Grafton

Continued From Page One

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The afternoon session of kindergarten at the North Grafton School on Waterville Street, about a mile east of the plant, was canceled, according to Messier.

He said residents of neighborhoods north of the plant told police they could smell the fumes.

Dr. Gregory Clotone, an emergency room physician at The Medical Center of Central Massachusetts — Memorial, said the short-term effects of nitric acid inhalation are a burning sensation in the throat and chest, shortness of breath and coughing. However, he said long-term consequences, such as irritation of the trachea, can lead to swelling in the upper and lower respiratory tract, including the lungs — a condition known as pulmonary edema.

DELAYED EFFECT

"Our biggest concern is the delayed effect," Clotone said.

He said patients such as those from Wyman-Gordon are observed for four hours and then given instructions on what to do, if other symptoms appear within two days.

The Wyman-Gordon Co. manufactures metal forgings used primarily in the aerospace industry. Tharp said nitric acid is used for etching and as a cleaning agent.

Employees on the second and third shifts yesterday were told not to report to work, but the plant will resume operations this morning.

Tharp said employees would be paid only for the hours they worked yesterday.

Water flows over the de

Oil spi

Grounded shi

The Associated Press

LERWICK, Shetland — Howling winds and rain slammed a tanker onto the Shetland Islands yesterday, frustrating efforts to crush it into waters teeming with marine and bird life.

The accident threatened to become one of the worst oil spills in a major environmental phe.

The nearly 25 million gallons of oil on the U.S.-managed tanker more than double the amount spilled in the Exxon Valdez disaster into Alaskan waters in March. A Greek tanker ran aground off northwestern Spain in 1980, spilling 21.5 million gallons of oil.

All 34 crew members were

WORLD DIGEST

Price control on returns for Russia

MOSCOW — Russia's prime minister has requested price controls on major foodstuffs, news agencies reported yesterday. The government is reversing one of its cornerstones of its economic policy: free-market reform. The action was taken to "stabilize and justify" prices on major goods and services, according to the decree signed by Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The government will "freeze" prices of bread, meat, salt, sugar, milk, butter, sausage, baby food, vodka, it said.

Honecker judge to be replaced

BERLIN — The chief judge of the trial of Erich Honecker's manslaughter was replaced yesterday, relaying the case to the court. The judge, Hans-Joachim Lauth, was replaced by a spokesman said. Court spokesman Bruno Rautenberg said Chief Judge Hans-Joachim Lauth would be replaced by Assistant Judge Hans-Joachim Lauth, which is scheduled to start tomorrow. An appeal judge will step in to fill the three-member panel.

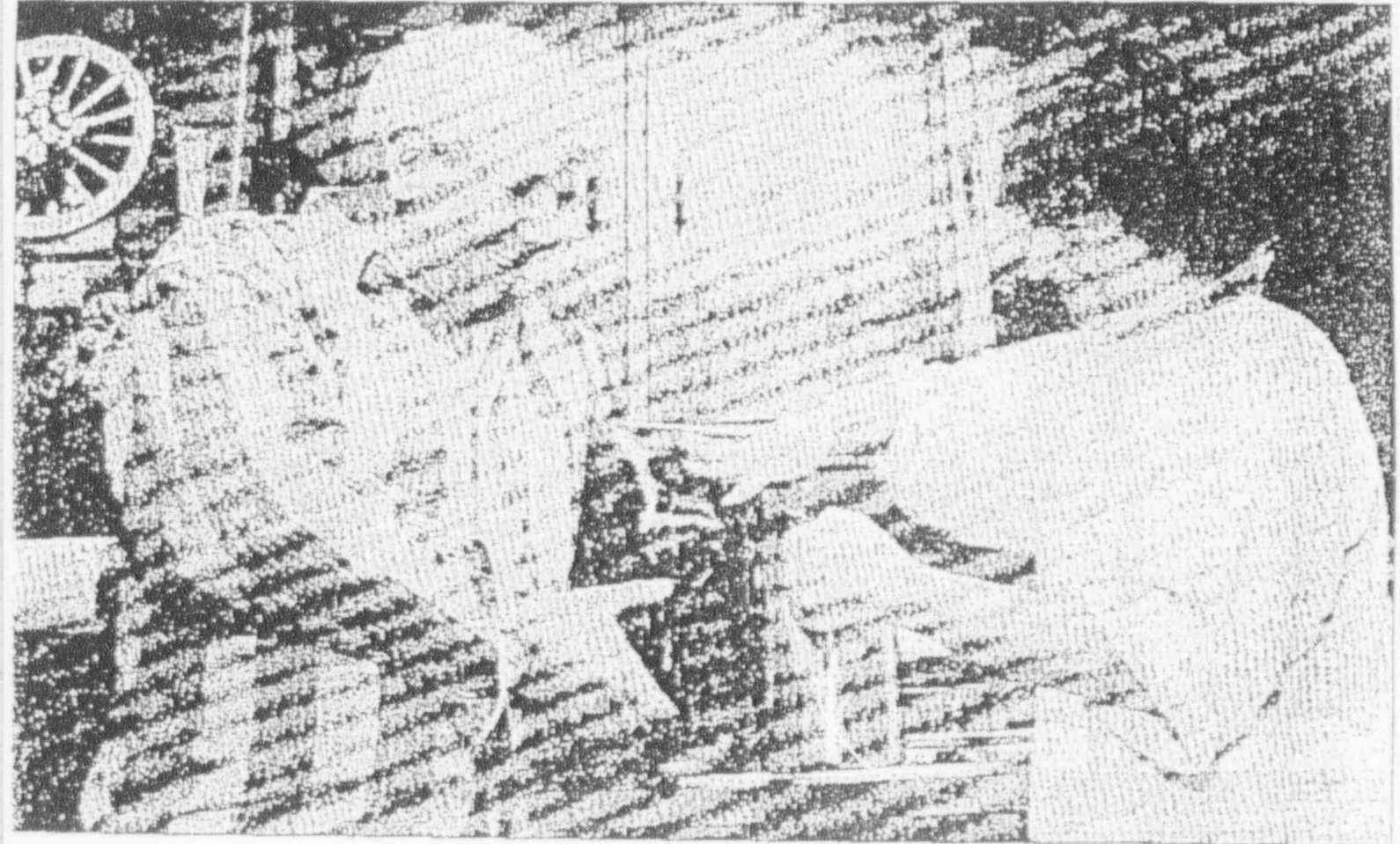
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SUNDAY TEL

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1993 ■ WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Tainted well water an aftermath of spill



DAN GOULD

Timothy and Bonnie Valade of 15 Faulkner Road, Grafton, are among those forced to use bottled water.

Acid washed into waterways

W-G warns Grafton neighbors of danger

By Barbara Rocco
Correspondent

GRAFTON — Private water wells have been contaminated by elevated levels of nitric acid that leaked Tuesday during an accident at the Wyman-Gordon plant on Route 122, officials said yesterday.

Residents in the area of the plant were advised by Wyman-Gordon officials not to drink or

cook with well water. Greg W. McBride of Geo Environmental Inc., a firm hired by W-G, also urged residents not to bathe youngsters under the age of 3 with the water.

Town and company officials met yesterday morning at the Municipal Center with about 20 residents to discuss the situation after two of eight wells tested Wednesday and Thursday in the

Creepers Hill and Faulkner Road neighborhoods showed high levels of the acid.

Another meeting will be held at 7 p.m. tomorrow with selectmen.

The full extent of the damage is not known and testing will continue today and tomorrow.

Company officials suggested that bottled water be purchased. They said residents should save

receipts for reimbursement by the company.

The testing began after a 5,000-gallon storage tank being filled from a tanker truck ruptured, spilling about 2,500 gallons of nitric acid.

The accident resulted in about a dozen injuries and forced the evacuation of about 400 workers. The facility also was shut down for a day.

Much of the spilled acid was

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Acid contaminates wells

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washed down storm drains by heavy rains and by the mist used by firefighters to dilute fumes.

The drains lead to Bonney Brook and Flint Pond.

Officials from the state Department of Environmental Protection said it will take at least two weeks to assess the damage to area waterways.

NEIGHBORS' COMPLAINTS

After the test results of the wells were known Friday, company representatives and town officials went door to door in the immediate area of the sprawling plant asking residents to attend yesterday's meeting.

Flyers were left on doorsteps, where nobody was home notifying residents of the meeting and outlining what precautions should be taken.

Meanwhile, residents yesterday reacted with anger when learning about the contamination.

They called upon Wyman-Gordon to pay the costs to tie area homes into the town's public water system.

Peter Greenlaw of 16 Faulkner Road blamed Wyman-Gordon for a host of environmental problems in the neighborhood.

Bonnie Valade of 15 Faulkner Road said the home she shares with her husband, Timothy, has devalued appreciably over the years because of its proximity to the plant.

"We'll never get what we paid for it," Valade said, vowing to form a neighborhood coalition to monitor the cleanup. "We've had it (with Wyman-Gordon)."

Dorothy King, who has lived at 19 Faulkner Road for 52 years, said

"the accident should never have happened in the first place."

Besides McBride, among those attending yesterday's meeting included: George Peterson, vice-chairman of selectmen; Daniel Morgado, town administrator; Stephanie Chalupka and Roger Currier from the Board of Health; Fred Haffty Jr., Grafton's hazardous waste coordinator; James W. Sharp, manager of environmental engineering and emergency coordinator at Wyman-Gordon; John J. Ostrosky, W-G's senior environmental engineer, and Brian J. Postale, another environmental engineer with W-G.

Acid found in Grafton water wells

By Keith Regan
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Grafton residents near an aircraft parts factory have been advised not to drink their tap water after nitric acid, leaked in a spill at the plant last week, began showing up in private water supplies over the weekend, police said last night.

Volunteers yesterday distributed informational fliers to about 20 homes near the Wyman-Gordon Co. plant in North Grafton yesterday. The fliers advised residents not to use tap water for drinking, cooking or bathing small children.

High levels of acid were detected in two of eight private wells tested over the weekend, but water from a town well in the area is safe, according to police.

A storage tank at the plant ruptured Tuesday, spilling 2,500 gallons of nitric acid. About a dozen workers were injured, and 400 were evacuated as fire officials sprayed down a huge cloud of vapor resulting from the spill.

As the cloud was knocked down with fire hoses and by a rain storm, the acid seeped into the ground and is now appearing in the well water, police said.

Police emphasized that only the area immediately surrounding the plant on Route 122 was affected.

Police said Wyman-Gordon made an offer to reimburse residents in the affected areas for bottled water costs. Police did not know how long the wells would be affected by the acid.

WORCESTER TELEGRAM GAZETTE

MONDAY - JAN 11, 1993

Wyman-Gordon can't pinpoint nitrate source

By John J. Monahan
Staff Reporter

GRAFTON — Wyman-Gordon Co. officials aren't sure whether the nitrates found in area wells came from acid spilled at its plant during an accident Tuesday, but they are supplying neighbors immediately northeast of the plant with bottled drinking water.

Company testing of water samples from five out of 25 deep and shallow wells at homes and businesses along Creeper Hill and Faulkner roads since the spill occurred turned up levels of nitrates above new safe drinking water standards.

The highest levels found so far, however, are within the levels of nitrates allowed by previous safe drinking water standards, and are not likely to cause acute illness, said Fred Haffty Jr., Grafton hazardous waste coordinator.

TESTING

Company spokesman F. James Walnista said the testing did not show whether the elevated nitrate levels found in the five wells came from the estimated 2,500 gallons of spilled nitric acid or from some other source.

"It is possible the nitric acid could have caused the higher level of nitrate, but is also possible it

could have come from a septic tank or fertilizer," Walnista said.

The acid spilled when a storage tank ruptured during a filling operation at the plant. A dozen employees were treated at the plant and area hospitals after inhaling fumes but no serious injuries were reported. The acid, however, was not contained and company officials said it was believed to have washed into drains that empty into Bonney Brook and Flint Pond, the southern end of Lake Quinsigamond.

CONTACTED

Walnista said yesterday that the company contacted all the residents and businesses in that area over the weekend and advised them not to drink their water. They also advised them that the water from area wells shouldn't be used for bathing young children, and began supplying those affected with bottled water.

Haffty said there are indications the high nitrate levels may have resulted from something other than the spilled acid, because the first wells showing the high levels were from samples taken the day after the spill from wells 250 feet deep and more than a quarter mile from the spill site.

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Neighbors get bottled water

Continued From Previous Page

"We are finding it difficult to fathom that the release happened Tuesday and Wednesday we picked up nitrate levels above the new drinking water standards," Haffty said, "That's awful fast for it to get 200 or 250 feet deep."

"So far the wells testing positive have remained fairly constant," for nitrate levels, Haffty said, "We want to see if it falls down. If it does fall down, it may indicate it was the nitric acid. If it doesn't it maybe indicate some other source."

40 MILLIGRAMS

Haffty said the highest levels found in daily testing of drinking water wells since the spill was just above 40 milligrams per liter. The current safe drinking water standard is 10 milligrams per liter and the previous drinking water standard was 45 milligrams per liter.

He said town officials were hoping to have a medical expert explain the possible effects of drinking water with elevated nitrate levels at a meeting for residents at 7 tonight at the Grafton Municipal Center. At the meeting, company and town officials are planning to explain the test results and plans for a continued testing program and water supply plans.

Haffty said he expects the daily testing of the wells will continue for at least a couple more weeks to gather information on whether the nitrate levels remain constant or diminish. He said a well-monitoring program would likely continue for at least several months or possibly longer depending on the conclusions drawn from test analysis.

Wyman-Gordon arranged delivery of six to 12 gallons of water yesterday for each home with well water in the area.